

Speed demons

Naperville N. takes 3rd at invite

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Boys track

It doesn't get much better than this.

Two of the state's fastest athletes went head-to-head at Friday's Red Grange Invite at Wheaton Warrenville South.

Wheaton North's Adam Harris and WW South's Justin Harrison tested each other in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

Harris won both events, leaving his spectacular cross-town competition nearly at a loss for words.

"I can't say anything about the 100, 200. That's his race. The 400, that's mine," said the bespectacled Harrison, last year's Class AA fourth-place 400 finisher.

"I just want to race him in the 400 — make me feel happy for once. It's just ridiculous, that kid's amazing."

Of the 400, Harris countered: "I don't know about that."

The first Harris vs. Harrison encounter was in the 100.

By then Harrison had already anchored WW South's winning 400-meter relay. Harris was just coming off a victorious turn in the 110-meter high hurdles.

Harris won the 100 dash in 10.4 seconds, tying Wheaton North's school record set in 1967 by Rick Lyon. Harrison was second at 10.7.

Harrison went on to win the 400 in a breeze, at a personal-best 47.2, nearly three seconds faster than the runner-up.

Up next was Harris in the 300 hurdles. Pushed hard by Glenbard West's Nate Larkin and WW South's Tom Cassady,

Harris won his least-favorite event in 38.4 seconds.

Seeking his fourth victory of the day, Harris was up against Harrison and Naperville North ace Dwight Carter in the 200-meter dash. Harris' short legs chopped up the track while Harrison's long strides followed suit, but Harris prevailed 21.6 seconds to 21.9.

"I had pretty good starts, and then throughout the race I could hear him getting closer and closer to me," Harris said. "And that kind of pushed me a little harder because I really didn't want him to pass me."

Due to the efforts of Falcons such as Harris, hurdler T.J. Griffin and Clark Benson — who beat Glenbard East's Joe Gajewski in the 800, 1:56.1 to 1:56.4 — Wheaton North won the three-class meet, 291 points to WW South's 281.

Naperville North, which had a winner in the Class A long jump with Scott Pavel at 21-8¾ and got uniformly fine results from distance runners Dan Curran, Joe Curran, Dan Walters and Eric Anerino, placed third with 154 points.

As often happens the final event to finish was the pole vault, where 2003 state qualifiers Nick Warrens of WW South and Mike Bina of Waubonsie Valley were the last two left.

Both cleared 14 feet, 6 inches, but Bina outlasted Warrens despite hitting the bar with his mouth on his best mark ever.

"I'm just so pumped up that I beat him and I got 15 feet," Bina said.